

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a polypeptide comprising ~~[[an]]~~ the full length amino acid sequence ~~[[of]]~~ depicted in SEQ ID NO:1, and
- b) a naturally occurring polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence at least ~~[[90%]]~~ 95% identical to ~~[[an]]~~ the full length amino acid sequence ~~of SEQ ID NO:1, depicted in SEQ ID NO:1.~~
- ~~c) a biologically active fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, and~~
- ~~d) an immunogenic fragment of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.~~

2. (Original) An isolated polypeptide of claim 1, having a sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

3.-10. (Canceled)

11. (Withdrawn) An isolated antibody which specifically binds to a polypeptide of claim 1.

12.-16. (Canceled)

17. (Original) A composition comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient.

18. (Original) The composition of claim 17, wherein the polypeptide has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

19. (Canceled)

20. (Withdrawn) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an agonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting agonist activity in the sample.

21.-22. (Canceled)

23. (Withdrawn) A method for screening a compound for effectiveness as an antagonist of a polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) exposing a sample comprising a polypeptide of claim 1 to a compound, and
- b) detecting antagonist activity in the sample.

24.-25. (Canceled)

26. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1, the method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under suitable conditions, and
- b) detecting binding of the polypeptide of claim 1 to the test compound, thereby identifying a compound that specifically binds to the polypeptide of claim 1.

27. (Withdrawn) A method of screening for a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1, said method comprising:

- a) combining the polypeptide of claim 1 with at least one test compound under conditions permissive for the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1,
- b) assessing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound, and
- c) comparing the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test

compound with the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the absence of the test compound, wherein a change in the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1 in the presence of the test compound is indicative of a compound that modulates the activity of the polypeptide of claim 1.

28.-29. (Canceled)

30. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic test for a condition or disease associated with the expression of HUCS in a biological sample, the method comprising:

- a) combining the biological sample with an antibody of claim 11, under conditions suitable for the antibody to bind the polypeptide and form an antibody:polypeptide complex, and
- b) detecting the complex, wherein the presence of the complex correlates with the presence of the polypeptide in the biological sample.

31. (Withdrawn) The antibody of claim 11, wherein the antibody is:

- a) a chimeric antibody,
- b) a single chain antibody,
- c) a Fab fragment,
- d) a F(ab')₂ fragment, or
- e) a humanized antibody.

32. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising an antibody of claim 11 and an acceptable excipient.

33. (Canceled)

34. (Withdrawn) A composition of claim 32, wherein the antibody is labeled.

35. (Withdrawn) A method of diagnosing a condition or disease associated with the expression of HUICS in a subject, comprising administering to said subject an effective amount of the composition of claim 34.

36. (Withdrawn) A method of preparing a polyclonal antibody with the specificity of the antibody of claim 11, the method comprising:

- a) immunizing an animal with a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, under conditions to elicit an antibody response,
- b) isolating antibodies from said animal, and
- c) screening the isolated antibodies with the polypeptide, thereby identifying a polyclonal antibody which binds specifically to a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

37. (Withdrawn) An antibody produced by a method of claim 36.

38. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 37 and a suitable carrier.

39. (Withdrawn) A method of making a monoclonal antibody with the specificity of the antibody of claim 11, the method comprising:

- a) immunizing an animal with a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1, or an immunogenic fragment thereof, under conditions to elicit an antibody response,
- b) isolating antibody producing cells from the animal,
- c) fusing the antibody producing cells with immortalized cells to form monoclonal antibody-producing hybridoma cells,
- d) culturing the hybridoma cells, and
- e) isolating from the culture monoclonal antibody which binds specifically to a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

40. (Withdrawn) A monoclonal antibody produced by a method of claim 39.
41. (Withdrawn) A composition comprising the antibody of claim 40 and a suitable carrier.
42. (Withdrawn) The antibody of claim 11, wherein the antibody is produced by screening a Fab expression library.
43. (Withdrawn) The antibody of claim 11, wherein the antibody is produced by screening a recombinant immunoglobulin library.
44. (Withdrawn) A method of detecting a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 in a sample, the method comprising:
- a) incubating the antibody of claim 11 with a sample under conditions to allow specific binding of the antibody and the polypeptide, and
 - b) detecting specific binding, wherein specific binding indicates the presence of a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 in the sample.
45. (Withdrawn) A method of purifying a polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1 from a sample, the method comprising:
- a) incubating the antibody of claim 11 with a sample under conditions to allow specific binding of the antibody and the polypeptide, and
 - b) separating the antibody from the sample and obtaining the purified polypeptide having an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.
- 46.-55. (Canceled)